



NEWSLETTER



2011 Final FSA Payments

All payments will be made by direct deposit or check.

Final DCP payments for 2011 participants will be issued sometime after **October 12, 2011**. Producers who received an advance payment will be paid the balance they are due. Those who did not take an advance will be receiving their full payment amount. If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) payments you are about to receive.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments and Transition Incentive Program (TIP) payments started being issued the first week of October.

County Committee Election Ballot Coming Your Way

Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on Nov. 4, 2011. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots will be due back in the county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. This year LAA 3 (Scobey Area) is up for election. Alan Danelson is seeking reelection and is the only nominee. If you have someone else in mind that is located and eligible in this area you may write their name on your ballot as a write in candidate. Please contact the Daniels county FSA office if you have questions.

2012 DCP & ACRE Signup Period: Starts January 23, 2012

The FSA County Office will begin enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and also the 2012 Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) Program on **January 23, 2012 and will continue through June 1, 2012**. There will be no advanced payment for the 2012 crop year. Payments will be issued after October 1, 2012 and will be based on 85% of your farm base.

The ACRE program provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year. Planted crops considered eligible for ACRE payments in this area include but not limited to: wheat, barley, oats, grain sorghum, corn, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, chickpeas or garbanzo beans), oilseeds (soybean, canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, safflower).

The Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) provides producers an income safety net in the form of annual direct payments and counter-cyclical payments when commodity prices fall below certain levels.

The 2012 DCP and ACRE contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2012. For more info, contact Daniels County FSA office.

PLEASE NOTIFY DANIELS COUNTY FSA OFFICE OF ANY FARM CHANGES (OWNERSHIP, OPERATOR, ETC) PRIOR TO SIGNUP.

Daniels County FSA Office

October 2011

**County Executive
Director, Cindy Vukasin**
PO Box 127
131 Highway 5 East B
Scobey, MT 59263-0127
406-487-5366 phone
406-487-2276 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee Members:

Alan Danelson, COC Chair
Rick Marriage, Vice Chair
Murray Dighans, Member
**Karen Tande, Minority
Advisor**

Next County Committee Meeting:

November 17, 2011 at 9 am
**at the Daniels County FSA
Office.**

County Office Staff: FSA Office Personnel Ext.

Lisa Tvedt, 112
JoAnn Lekold, 113
Bonnie Modine, 114
Molly Greene, 116

Agricultural Lending Opportunities

Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; or livestock, machinery purchases call: Jaylein Nickels in Glasgow at 406-228-4321 ext. 107.

Accommodations:

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any FSA programs should contact the County FSA Office or the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SURE 2010 Crop Disaster Program

Montana farmers can begin enrollment for 2010 crop losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program on **November 14, 2011**. The deadline to sign up is June 1, 2012.

Daniels County did not qualify for the secretarial disaster declaration therefore, SURE is available to eligible producers with a minimum of 50 % loss of normal production for their entire farming operation including hay due to disaster-related conditions.

Although farmers may sign up for the SURE program in November, the SURE payments will not be issued until the 2010 National Average Market Price (NAMP) data is available for the crop(s). The NAMP prices are intended to reflect the actual marketing value of a crop during the marketing year, which may not end until the beginning of 2012 for most crops.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions that are not covered under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). For ELAP an eligible producer must have suffered eligible losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition that occurred before **October 1, 2011**, and in the calendar year for which assistance is being requested. For 2011 calendar year livestock losses, producers must file a notice of loss the earlier of **30 calendar days** of when the loss is apparent not to exceed **December 29, 2011**. For 2011 livestock grazing and feed losses, producers must file a notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent not to exceed **January 30, 2012**. An application for payment must be filed no later than **January 30, 2012** for producers who suffer losses in **calendar year 2011**. For more information contact FSA county offices or visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Farm Storage and Facility Loan (FSFL) Program Available -

FSA's Farm Storage and Facility Loan (FSFL) Program provides low-interest financing for producers of eligible commodities to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15%, with Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) providing a loan for the remaining 85% of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10, or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term may vary. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement with a final disbursement or one final disbursement. The final disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. An FSFL generally must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. Commodities considered eligible for FSFL in this area include but not limited: corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain; or barley harvested as other than whole grain and hay.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides assistance to eligible livestock owners and contract growers for eligible livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather that occurred on or before **September 30, 2011**. The 2011 livestock losses must be apparent by **November 29, 2011**. Producers must file a notice of loss the earlier of **30 calendar days** of when the loss of livestock is apparent not to exceed **December 29, 2011**. A notice of loss can be reported to the office by phone, fax, or e-mail. An application for payment may be filed at any time in 2011, but must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred (For 2011 losses, the deadline is **January 30, 2012**) For more information, contact the FSA county offices or visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

FSA Cooperation with RMA

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to work together, improve program compliance and integrity of the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIC). RMA and FSA will create a plan to identify, address and reconcile discrepancies of all relevant producer-derived information and create a monitoring program to include fact finding relative to allegations of program fraud, waste, and abuse. FSA will assist RMA and insurance providers in monitoring conditions throughout the growing season and conduct growing season inspections. All suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse concerning the FCIC will be referred to RMA. FSA will also assist RMA with auditing claims. Producers may also report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to a FSA County Office, RMA Office or Office of Inspector General (OIG).

2012 Map Changes

Need fields combined? split? Daniels County has received the new 2011 imagery. Producers wishing to make any changes before the 2012 maps are printed may bring in their 2011 maps and request changes. Changes based on the 2011 imagery will be made at no charge. If you wish to make changes the request needs to be made before **November 30th, 2011**.

Change to Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Compliance Forms & Process

Forms CCC-926 (Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement) and forms CCC-927 and CCC-928 (Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information) have now been replaced by a single form, CCC-931 (Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information). This form will be submitted to your local County FSA Office, and can be used for any of the years 2009-2012. The forms will then be sent by the county office in batches to the IRS in order to complete the mandated compliance checks. One important thing to note is that because the form also serves as an IRS information release, Farm Service Agency signature authority documents, such as the FSA-211 Power of Attorney form, cannot be used to sign the CCC-931 on behalf of anyone else. The form must be signed by someone who has the authority to sign tax documents for the individual or entity in question.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan - even if the producer regains beneficial interest. MAL eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan (9 months). Producers do not have to participate in the Direct/Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for MAL's. Violating provisions of a MAL may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as collateral for the loan without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Farm Loan Program

Emergency Farm Loans: FSA provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production losses and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. Emergency loan funds may be used to: restore or replace essential property; pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; reorganize the farming operation; and refinance certain debts. More info and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged: FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact the local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

NAP Coverage Deadlines for 2012 Crop Year

FSA's Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields or prevented planting occurs as the result of natural disasters. The Application deadline/service fee for 2012 NAP coverage in Montana on all NAP crops (except honey and value loss crops) is: **March 15, 2012**. If the Risk Management Agency offers coverage for the agricultural commodity crop in the county, then NAP coverage is not available for that crop. In the event of a natural disaster, NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage. The service fee is \$250 per crop per administrative county or \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed \$1875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers.

VISIT FSA ONLINE: Information on FSA programs, the 2011 Montana FSA Farmer & Rancher Program Handbook, forms, state news releases, upcoming deadlines and state e-newsletters and county newsletters & more are available at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.

Selected Interest Rates - October 2011

Farm Operating - Direct	1.75%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.25%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency - Actual Loss	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility - 7-year	1.50%
Farm Storage Facility - 10-year	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility - 12-year	2.375%
Crop Year Commodity Loans	1.125%
CCC Borrowing Rate	0.125%

FSA: Upcoming Important Dates to Remember:

Nov. 4: County Committee Election Ballots to be mailed to eligible voters
Nov. 11: USDA Service Centers closed for Veterans Day federal holiday
Nov. 14: SURE Signup for 2010 Crop Year Begins
Nov. 24: USDA Service Centers closed for Thanksgiving Day federal holiday
Dec. 1: 2012 NAP Sales Closing Date Honey
Dec. 5: Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA office.
Dec 26: USDA Service Centers closed for Christmas Day federal holiday
Jan. 1: Elected County Committee members and alternates take office.
Jan. 2: USDA Service Centers closed for New Year's Day federal holiday
Jan. 23: 2012 DCP and ACRE Enrollment Begins
March 15: NAP Closing Date for 2012 Crops (except value loss and honey)
June 1: 2012 ACRE Signup Deadline
June 1: 2012 DCP Signup Deadline
June 1: 2010 SURE Signup Deadline

Continues: Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

Farm Loan Program

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are looking at expanding your farm operation or just starting out, FSA has direct and guaranteed loans to fit your financial needs. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee to purchase real estate, buy machinery, equipment or livestock or to obtain credit to cover your input costs for the crop year. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000 starting on Oct. 1, 2011. The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement/Complaint Process:

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."